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views on American affairs. His attitude in this matter was perfectly sincere. Some of his contemporaries thought that he was truckling to the authorities at Hanover, but that is highly improbable considering the bold stand he took on other occasions, especially in 1789, when he hailed the French revolution as the dawn of a new era. Frensdorff and Biedermann have shown clearly that Schlözer's condemnation of the American cause was perfectly consistent with his political views, advanced as they were, and with his ideas of popular liberty. It is interesting to know that Schlözer had met Franklin during the latter's stay in Göttingen (1766).⁸⁴ Moreover, Schlözer's journal was a constant protest against misgovernment and abuse of power not only in foreign countries, but in every part of the German Empire. Though the professors at Göttingen enjoyed freedom from press censorship, Schlözer fully realized that, in spite of this privilege, his journal might be suppressed at any moment, but even that could not intimidate him. The journal was actually suspended in 1793, by order of the Hanoverian government. His work in the interest of political liberty was early recognized. No less a man than Wilh. von Humboldt says of him in a letter to Joach. H. Campe: "*Schlözer, der um Publicität und politische Freiheit so viel Verdienst hat.*"⁸⁵

Schlözer attacked the Americans in the lecture-room as well as in his journal. The physicist Sömmering, then a student at Göttingen, reports:

"Schlözer lese mit ausserordentlichem Applaus und zeige, dass die nordamerikanischen Kolonien die undankbarsten Rebellen seien."⁸⁶

When the poem *Die Freiheit Amerikas* appeared in the *Berliner Monatsschrift*, Schlözer suggested the reading "*der edle Kampf für Hancock und Contreband*" instead of "*für Freiheit und Vaterland.*" In his *Jan von Leiden* he changed the line to "*der edle*

⁸⁴ Cf. Frensdorff, *A. D. B.* 31, 584 ff.; Biedermann, *Zt. f. dtsch. Kulturgeschichte*, 1858, pp. 491 ff., *Deutschland im 18. Jahrhundert* iv, 1194; Schlosser, *Geschichte des 18. Jh.*, Heidelberg, 1864, iv, 227, 229, 245, 247, where Schlözer's weak sides are brought out.

⁸⁵ Leyser, *Joach. H. Campe*, Braunschweig, 1877, ii, 308.

⁸⁶ R. Wagner, *Sam. Th. von Sömmering*, Leipzig, 1844, ii, 15.

Kampf für Freiheit und Schneider Jan."⁸⁷ Schlözer's position on the American Revolution was attacked by the geographer Büsching⁸⁸ and by G. Mauvillon, professor at the Carolinum in Cassel in a *Sammlung von Aufsätzen über Gegenstände aus der Staatskunst, Staatswirtschaft, etc.*, Leipzig, 1776. Schlözer's genuine interest in America may also be seen from the fact that he edited a German translation of Fenning and Collyer's work on America.⁸⁹

JOHN A. WALZ.

Harvard University.

CURRENT NOTES IN PHONETICS.

THE Vice-President for the Section of Physiology of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Prof. John G. M'Kendrick, opened the session at Glasgow on Sept. 11, with an address on experimental phonetics. One day of the meeting was set aside for the presentation of phonetic papers.

A recent number of the *Bulletin des Parlers Normands* contains further Calvados dialect notes by M. de Guer, a poem in the dialect of Caux, a dialogue in the dialect of Méry-Corbon, additions and corrections to the glossary of that of Bessin, the first portion of Section A of a lexicon of that of La Villette (Calvados), a poem in that of Verson, a specimen of that of Audrieu (Calvados).

At the Paris Exposition Mr. Poulsen of Copenhagen exhibited a new speech-recording instrument termed the telegraphone. An ordinary microphone transmitter is connected through any length of wire to a small electromagnet whose poles are adjusted close to a steel wire or steel tape. While the telephone message is arriving, the magnet is run along over the wire or tape. The magnet is then attached to an ordinary telephone receiver; upon running it again over the wire or tape the sound is heard in a high degree of perfection. The magnetic impulses from the magnet received from the transmitter probably produce some rearrangement of molecules in the steel

⁸⁷ Frensdorff, *l. c.* p., 587. ⁸⁸ Schlosser, *l. c.*, iv, 245.

⁸⁹ *Neue Erdbeschreibung von ganz Amerika. Nebst einem Anhang vom 5. Welttheile.* Aus dem Englischen des D. Fenning und G. Collyer. Herausgegeben von A. L. Schlözer, Göttingen und Leipzig, 1777.

and thereby give a record which can be used to produce magnetic impulses again. The instrument is intended to record speech just as the telegraph tape records movements of a finger. The permanency of the telegraphophone record still leaves something to be desired; the attendant at Paris said the records could not be relied upon to last more than two years. Its importance to phonetics lies in the truth and purity of the record made and in the simplicity of manipulation. The Edison phonograph is still the only available method of collecting speech records, but in many respects it is far from satisfactory.

Systematic collections of phonograms are preserved by the American Museum of Natural History in New York, by the Vienna Academy of Sciences in a special museum, by the Society of Anthropology of Paris in a similar museum,¹ and in other places. A. Graham Bell's valuable collection of musician's voices was destroyed by fire. The collection in Paris includes a systematic series of the principal dialects of China. The American collections are mainly of Indian song.

The collection of phonograms of languages and dialects is now being carried out on a large scale in America. Records of Indian song have been collected by FILLMORE, of Indian speech and song by BOAS, RUSSELL and others. A committee appointed last December by the Philological Association (Schmidt-Wartenberg), the Section of Anthropology of the Am. Assoc. Adv. Sci. (Russell) and the Modern Language Assoc. (Scripture) has under consideration the systematic collection and preservation of phonograms of various languages and dialects. Promises of coöperation have been received from various sources. The National Gramophone Corporation of New York has undertaken to make plates of the voices of persons for historical purposes; copies will be deposited in certain specified institutions and will be supplied privately to investigators but will not be sold to the public. As no commercial use of these plates will be made, the arrangement with the committee is a highly favorable and satisfactory one. The

same company will prepare plates of any voices, languages or dialects the committee may desire, provided the persons are brought to the laboratory in New York and also provided the actual expense of manufacture is guaranteed. The net cost of making a mould and the first hundred discs is \$50; a subscription for one hundred discs is therefore needed in each case. Some English discs have already been prepared without charge. Under direction of the committee the machine at the Yale Psychological Laboratory will trace off all such plates, prepare the blocks and send prints for study to all desiring them. M. Lioret of Paris has offered to prepare celluloid cylinders of any designated subject not of an unusual character. The Edison phonograph company will make mastercylinders at a small rate and furnish copies as usual. The formation of phonetic libraries of voice and instrumental records at the great universities will probably follow successful action by the committee.

Just what should be recorded on a phonograph on a given occasion will depend on the purpose of the collector. A collection for the study of dialects is not the only one that may be made. Racial psychology, individual psychology, the development of language in prose and verse are all important matters. To cover as many points as possible it is well to have the speaker: 1. make a few conversational remarks concerning such familiar topics as the weather or what he had to eat at breakfast; 2. read a piece of prose; 3. recite from memory a piece of prose; 4. recite a piece of verse; 5. repeat the alphabet (or a series of monosyllables including the typical sounds of his speech); 6. sing a stanza of a national song; 7. sing some separate notes; 8. repeat the syllable *ta, ta ta, . . .* a number of times; 9. repeat the syllable *ta* when the experimenter calls it into the phonograph (the experiment to be made several times); 10. repeat any syllables that the experimenter calls into the phonograph (to be done several times); 11. do the last three things again as quickly as possible. In this way speech and song under various conditions are recorded; the character of the voice is given in 5 and 7, the natural rapidity of repeating voluntary acts in 8, the natural

¹ AZOULAY, *Sur la constitution d'une musée phonographique*, Bull. et Mém. de la Soc. d'Anthropol., Paris, 1900 (5) I 222.

simple and complex reaction-time in 9 and 10, and the results of extra effort in 11. A measuring attachment to the phonograph renders it possible to obtain figures for the speed of speech, song and the psychological responses. After the record is made the phonograph cylinder should have spoken into it the place and the date of the record, with an indication of the surroundings, such as "open air," "furnished room," "lecture hall," etc. The person speaking should state: his name in full, date and place of birth, father's birthplace, mother's birthplace, any facts concerning language, education, occupation, diseases, accidents, etc., that may be of importance. The manipulator should add any observations that present themselves concerning the speaker, the naturalness of his attitude before the phonograph, the strength of his voice, his gestures while speaking, references to sources of further information concerning him, the preservation of other records by him, of his photograph, etc. Finally, there should be added the name and number of the equipment with a reference to a separate cylinder or some other record giving exact details concerning the phonograph; a new number should be used for every change in the apparatus. The apparatus record should contain the name of the phonograph, its number, a reference to a complete description of it, statements concerning the thickness of the diaphragm and the character of the speaking tube, the speed at which it is run, etc.

The Fourier analysis so frequently used by Hermann, Pipping, and others, for finding the components of a vowel curve has been employed at great disadvantage on account of the time it required. Even with the schemes and tables of Prof. Hermann the measurement and analysis of a single wave required two or three hours of constant labor by a skilled person. The harmonic analyzer constructed by Coradi (Zürich) from designs of Prof. Henrici (London) performs the analysis automatically when its indicating point is moved once forward and then backward along the wave. The high degree of precision required for such an instrument makes the cost from \$250 upward for one giving six to ten partials.

According to the *Maître Phonétique* Profs. Jespersen and Nyrop have been made cheva-

liers of the order of Danebrog; a newly revived periodical, the *Bolletino di Filologia Moderna*, edited by Romeo Lovera, has undertaken the cause of language reform in Italy; summer courses in languages were again given this year in Marburg.

The question of an international language was laid before the union of national academies in Paris by a delegation from the *Touring Club de France* and was received with favor. The form of language recommended was Esperanto, which has already gained considerable ground in Europe.

The chief books on the new universal language Esperanto are

Leau: *Une langue internationale est-elle possible?* Paris, Gauthier Villars, 1900.

Couturat: *Pour la langue internationale*. Coulommiers, Imp. Paul Brodard, 1901.

Langue internationale Esperanto, manuel complet avec double dictionnaire, traduit par L. de Beaufront, 1 fr. 50.

Gaston Moch: *La Question de la Langue internationale et sa solution par l'Esperanto*. Paris: Giard et Brière.

Ekzercaro de la lingvo internacia Esperanto, by Dr. L. Zamenhof, o fr. 85.

Universala Vortaro de la lingvo internacia, by Dr. L. Zamenhof, 1 fr. 10.

In Schaefer's Textbook of Physiology the section on Vocal Sounds, by John G. M'Kendrick and Albert A. Gray, has twenty-two out of thirty-one pages devoted to an account of speech curves obtained by the various methods of experimental phonetics.

E. W. SCRIPTURE.

Yale University.

MISTRANSLATION OF DANTE.

IN the ninth paragraph of Dante's letter to Can Grande occurs the following: *Prima divisio est, qua totum opus dividitur in tres Canticas. Secunda, qua quaelibet Cantica dividitur in Cantus. Tertia, qua quilibet Cantus dividitur in Rithimos.*

This letter is so important that I should like to call attention to an error which has been made not only by all Dante's English translators, but also by Boccaccio and Pietro Fraticelli. I refer to the word *Rithimos*.